



03-19-02

KCC 4809
PATENT9PL77R/c
3-16-03
#4/TDSRECEIVED
APR 11 2002
TC 1700

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of Mark J. Beitz, et al.

Art Unit 1772

Serial No. 10/039,238

Filed December 31, 2001

Confirmation No. 7291

For USABLE SPLICE FOR A STABILIZED ABSORBENT AND METHOD FOR
MAKING THE SPLICE

March 18, 2002

TO THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS,

SIR:

RECEIVED
MAR 21 2002
TC 1700INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97 and 1.98 and MPEP 609, and in compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.56, applicants submit copies of the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08A for consideration by the Patent and Trademark Office in the above-entitled application and to be made of record therein.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald W. Tuegel, Reg. No. 45,424
SENNIGER, POWERS, LEAVITT & ROEDEL
One Metropolitan Square, 16th Floor
St. Louis, Missouri 63102
(314) 231-5400

DWT/cak

*Enclosure

Express Mail Label No. EV015167758US

PTO/SB/08A

MAR 18 2002

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

RECEIVED

APR 11 2002

TC 1700

Complet if Known

Sheet	1	of	2	Attorney Docket No.	KCC 4809
-------	---	----	---	---------------------	----------

RECEIVED
MAR 21 2002
TC 1700

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		
	1	3,633,352		Marriner	01/11/1972
	2	3,886,031		Taitel	05/27/1975
	3	4,190,483		Ryan et al.	02/26/1980
	4	4,374,576		Ryan	02/22/1983
	5	4,776,920		Ryan	10/11/1988
	6	4,798,603		Meyer et al.	01/17/1989
	7	4,923,546		Wheeler et al.	05/08/1990
	8	5,176,668		Bernardin	01/05/1993
	9	5,176,672		Bruemmer et al.	01/05/1993
	10	5,192,606		Proxmire et al.	03/09/1993
	11	5,509,915		Hanson et al.	04/23/1996
	12	5,514,237		Emenaker et al.	05/07/1996
	13	5,584,897		Christianson et al.	12/17/1996
	14	6,160,197		Lassen et al.	12/12/2000

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
--------------------	-----------------

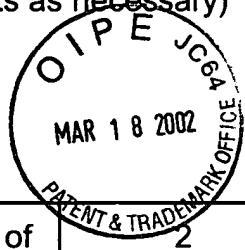
*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D.C. 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)



Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket No.	KCC 4809
-------	---	----	---	---------------------	----------

RECEIVED
APR 11 2002
TC 1700

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	T ⁶
		Office	Number ⁴	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	15	EP	0,842,756	A1	Rockwell	05/20/1998	
	16	WO	00/77286	A1	Vuillaume et al	12/21/2000	

OTHER ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶

RECEIVED
MAR 21 2002
TC 1700

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
--------------------	-----------------

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D.C. 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.